

Tillis	Warner	Wyden
Toomey	Warren	Young
Udall	Whitehouse	
Van Hollen	Wicker	

NOT VOTING—9

Blunt	Graham	Lee
Cruz	Heller	Manchin
Duckworth	Lankford	McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joel M. Carson III, of New Mexico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I had an opportunity yesterday to visit our friend JOHN MCCAIN. It was in a beautiful location, Sedona. It is about a 2-hour drive from Phoenix.

JOHN and Cindy and I had a chance to sit on the back porch and reminisce about our friendship and all we had shared over the last 30 years. We had some laughs. We mainly reminisced about the battles. Sometimes we were on the same side, and sometimes we were not. Yet one thing about our colleague JOHN MCCAIN is you would rather be on his side than not. For 10 years, we had a very vigorous debate about an issue he and I both cared about, and we were on opposite sides. It ended up going all the way to the Supreme Court. He won and I lost, and we worked hard to establish a new relationship after that vigorous battle of a decade.

We all know his story all too well—that of a genuine American hero. We admire the tenacity and the grit it took to survive those 5½ years in the Hanoi Hilton and the way he refused to go home early, as he certainly could have, given the prominence of his father's position in the Navy. It is pretty hard to think of any serious issues that face our Nation without recalling the role JOHN played in so many things that are important to our country.

Over the last few years, I am sure the Presiding Officer would agree with me that we saw him as the shadow Secretary of State during the Obama years as he traveled the world—sometimes on a long weekend—to some of the least desirable places to visit. I avoided those trips, but for those who took them, it was a little bit like the Bataan Death March. Junkets they were not. He was an important foreign policy and defense voice for our country. He was also passionate in working to

take better care of our veterans. No one, with the possible exception of Senator ISAKSON, spent more time working on veterans' issues and trying to take care of them, as they richly deserve, than JOHN MCCAIN.

At this point in his life, he, obviously, has a little time to sit and rest and reflect under the desert sky and to simply take in the beautiful, peaceful Nation he has worked so hard and so long to protect and pass on to all of our children.

One thing we all know about JOHN—and it remains the case today—is that he doesn't have a relaxed bone in his body. He still has plenty to say about work, I assure you. He misses his colleagues, and he would rather be here. I told him we miss him, too—all the great jokes, the smart-alecky comments. He was a joy to be around.

I didn't want to miss the opportunity to tell him how much his friendship has meant to me, so that is why I was out there this weekend. While I was there, I said I was confident I was speaking for everybody in the Senate in conveying our deepest respect to him for all he has done for this country during a truly extraordinary life.

Mr. KING. Will the Senator yield for a comment?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yes.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I join in thanking the majority leader for, No. 1, going to see Senator MCCAIN and, No. 2, for the comments he made. I came here 5½ years ago and had never met JOHN MCCAIN, but I have gotten to know him over that period by serving on his Armed Services Committee and by traveling with him.

Over the weekend, I told some friends in Maine that traveling with JOHN MCCAIN is like a long march with Paul McCartney. You work hard, and everyone in the world knows it. He is an extraordinary leader and one of the most principled people I have ever met. I was speaking to a college graduation in far northern Maine and characterized him, almost spontaneously, as a person whom I consider to be the greatest living American. The audience broke into spontaneous applause because, I think, they agreed.

I thank the Senator for the time he has taken to acknowledge this great American today, and I join my comments with his in recognizing one of the most extraordinary careers in American history. I thank the Senator for his comments.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I thank my friend from Maine.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE AND THE OPENING OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM

Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, today marks 70 years since Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948. Ever since, this brave nation has shown as a beacon of democracy in a troubled region and has stood as a valued friend of the United States.

It is fitting that another historic event took place just today. This

morning, an American delegation, including top administration officials and several of our own colleagues, were on hand in Jerusalem, Israel's capital, to officially open the new American Embassy in that city.

I am proud the administration sent this clear signal on behalf of all Americans. We recognize the fact that Jerusalem is Israel's capital, plain and simple. That is where our Embassy belongs. Now, thanks to the President's decision, that is where it will be.

WELL WISHES FOR HARRY REID

Mr. President, on one final subject, the Senate's thoughts this afternoon are with our former colleague, the previous Democratic leader, Senator Reid, who underwent surgery today for a pancreatic tumor. According to his family's statement, the procedure went well, and chemotherapy will follow in the days ahead.

So, Harry, let me say that we are all in your corner, and we wish you the very best in this fight.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 715.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael K. Atkinson, of Maryland, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Atkinson nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.